

HON. MR. REID (B. C.), from the committee, reported the Bill as amended.

The amendements were concurred in, and the Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (19) "An Act to amend the Copyright Act."

(In the Committee.)

HON. MR. ABBOTT.—This Act is, as the House already knows, intended to bring or place the Exchequer Courts amongst those courts which may try questions arising under the Copyright Act. The Copyright Act provides that if there be a dispute with respect to any copyright it shall be referred to a competent court, and that the decision of the court shall govern the Minister in his action upon the application for a copyright. As the clause stands, upon a careful consideration of it, I have not been able to satisfy myself that it might not be construed to give to the Exchequer Court exclusive jurisdiction, which is not the intention.

HON. MR. MILLER—"May" is the word used. It is not imperative.

HON. MR. ABBOTT.—The word "may" might be construed in the imperative mood when applied to an official of a court, and I have thought it best to ask the House to put it beyond the possibility of a doubt. I have submitted the point to the Minister of Justice, and he is of the same opinion as myself, that it would be better to clear up this doubt in the Bill. I would therefore propose to strike out the words in clause 3: "Any question arising under this section may be adjudicated upon by the Exchequer Court of Canada," and substitute the following: "The Exchequer Court of Canada shall be a competent court within the meaning of this Act, and shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate on any question arising under this section."

The amendment was agreed to.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington), from the committee, reported the Bill as amended.

The amendment was concurred in, and the Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

THE INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (Q) "An Act to amend the General Inspection Act, Chapter 99, Revised Statutes."

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT said—Section 1 is intended to change the classification of pease. Now, I find under the General Inspection Act the Governor in Council has power to classify or change the classification of grains of all kinds, and that power is frequently exercised, and the Governor in Council can do precisely, by the exercise of that power, what it is proposed to do by this clause 1. On the attention of the Minister being called to that fact, he agreed with me in thinking that it was inexpedient to multiply the clauses in the Statute-book to regulate minor matters of this description which are expressly placed within the purview of the powers of the Governor in Council, and that this clause is wholly unnecessary. I therefore move that it be struck out.

The motion was agreed to.

On the 2nd clause,—

HON. MR. KAULBACH said—It seems to me that to put this clause into operation at once would not be advisable. Some time should be allowed to elapse, so that parties putting up pork would have sufficient knowledge of the law to pack as provided for by this section.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend is quite right, and I hold in my hand an amendment which I propose to move before the committee rises, retarding the operation of this section until after the 1st of September. It will not apply to any pork presented for inspection until after September.

HON. MR. CLEMOW—Why are there so many classifications?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The hon. gentleman must not suppose the knowledge of a Minister to be universal. I cannot give the reasons for it. I can say this much, that it is on the suggestion of the trade, and after very full consultation with persons